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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/053,666	01/24/2002	Wolfgang Billinger	P67552US0	8422

136 7590 02/02/2007
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WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

HOLZEN, STEPHEN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3644

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/053,666

Applicant(s)

BILLINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen A. Holzen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 19-28, 30 and 32-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 24, 25 and 28 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 19-23, 26, 27, 30 and 32-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 10/17/2006 have been fully considered but they are fully not persuasive. The examiner withdraws the previous rejection and presents a substantially similar rejection (slightly modified).

The examiner does not agree that elements #13a,b are not a fitting. Elements #13a,b are clearly used to connect the movable part (flap) to the structural part (tail). The examiner cannot think of any other reason why flange #13a would be provided but for the connection between the movable and structural parts.

2. To outline the examiner's position:

- Fitting = #13a,b
- **Bearing = obvious to use one**
- Moveable Part = #11, #14, #15 in combination and illustrated in Figure 1
- #13a&b connect #11/14/15 to the tail of the aircraft (see Figure 3).
- Tail of aircraft = Structure component
- Both skins 11, 12 and the spar 13 are bonded by a pasty thermosetting adhesive to together form a single structure
- The box-structure airfoil 10 comprises a composite material upper skin 11 forming a top surface of the airfoil, a composite material lower skin 12 forming a bottom surface of the airfoil, and a composite material spar 13 (see Col. 4, lines 50-60) made from CFRP (Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer, see Col. 5, lines 33-41).

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- The movable part (#11-15) is an elevator (see Figure 3)
 - The fact that Hirahara et al do not employ a resin transfer molding method is of no consequence since this limitation is a product by process limitation. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even through the prior product was made by a different process.
3. Claims 15, 19-28, 30 and 32-34 are pending
 4. Claims 24, 25 and 28 are withdrawn.
 5. Claims 15, 19-23, 26, 27, 30 and 32-34 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 15, 19, 21-23, 26, 27, 30 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirahara et al (6,234,423).

Hirahara discloses a fitting = #13a,b; Moveable Part = #11, #14, #15 in combination and illustrated in Figure 10 #13a&b connect #11/14/15 to the tail of the aircraft (see Figure 3); both skins 11, 12 and the spar 13 are bonded by a pasty thermosetting adhesive to together form a

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single structure the box-structure airfoil 10 comprises a composite material upper skin 11 forming a top surface of the airfoil, a composite material lower skin 12 forming a bottom surface of the airfoil, and a composite material spar 13 (see Col. 4, lines 50-60) made from CFRP (Carbon Fiber Reinforced Polymer, see Col. 5, lines 33-41). The movable part (#11-15) is an elevator (see figure 3). The fact that Hirahara et al do not employ a resin transfer molding method is of no consequence since this limitation is a product by process limitation. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even through the prior product was made by a different process.

Hirahara does not disclose bearing.

A **bearing** is a device to permit constrained relative motion between two parts, typically rotation or linear movement

The examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that bearings are notoriously well known means to permit constrained relative motion between a structural and a movable part (see for example www.wikipedia.org).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made to use a bearing to permit constrained relative motion between the elevator and the tail.

8. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirahara in view of Koppelman et al (3,102,559). Hirahara does not disclose using nylon as a reactive material. Koppelman discloses a composite material formed by impregnating woven structure made of

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nylon fibers with a thermosetting resin (see col. 14, line 22). It would have been obvious to use nylon as the reactive material since nylon allows for improved tensile strengths with relatively high compression strength. Furthermore, it has been held that to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960) (selection of a known plastic to make a container of a type made of plastics prior to the invention was held to be obvious.)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen A. Holzen whose telephone number is 571-272-6903. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teri Luu can be reached on 571-272-7045. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Stephen Hf 1/29
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